

USERS' NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 1981

VOL. 2, NO.8

TWO OFFICERS RESIGN

Due to the resignations of 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON President, Joe Stanfield, and Vice-President/Treasurer, Royce Bordman, a Special Election will be held at the September 2, 1981 meeting of the group.

Other more important commitments for Stanfield and Bordman have necessitated their resignations from office.

Stanfield told USERS' NEWS that the reason he was resigning as President was "definitely due to the fact that I feel I should be at church instead of at the computer meeting."

It is understandable that Stanfield feels his religious commitments are more important than leading the club. Stanfield noted that he plans to remain a member of the group, but added that he would be unable to attend the meetings on Wednesday nights.

Stanfield stated that he has enjoyed being involved with the club and being President, even though he held the office for only 3 months.

The Bordmans are expecting an addition to their family, so Royce Bordman will be unable to attend several meetings because of special classes he and the Mrs. will be attending in preparation for the special event.

Bordman also has made plans to sell his TRS-80 system and keep his Altos business system, therefore, he will not have as much in common with the members of 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON as he has had in the past.

According to Bordman, several people in the part of town where his business is located are making plans to form a special group which will be geared towards the small business system such as Bordman's Altos.

All members of the club are urged to attend the September 2nd meeting as nominations for the Executive Committee officers will be taken from the floor. The officers elected at this meeting will hold office until the June, 1982, meeting.

Remember, only persons with dues paid up through August are eligible to vote in the upcoming Special Election as per the By-Laws of 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON.

TRS-80 is a trademark of Tandy Corp.

NEXT MEETING

Date: SEPTEMBER 2, 1981
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
Program: Information from
TANDY CORP. by LOREN
BENTLEY, new Mgr. of
SW R.S. Computer Center
WHAT IS GATEWAY
ELECTRONICS? by a rep.
of GATEWAY

WE MEET AGAIN ON OCT. 7!

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SPOTLIGHT ON A BULLETIN BOARD...BULLET-80 OF HOUSTON

Sysop Bullet-80: Richard Castleberry-331-2599

What you need:

1. A Computer
2. Telephone
3. Communications interface (RS232)
4. A modem (300 or 1200 baud)
5. Software: communications package
(Bullet-80 will work with most

communications packages. Bullet-80 supports ST80 because it was developed when there was none other available superior or equal to ST80. Castleberry has not received any reports of any particular software package that would not work.)

Next: Set your configuration switches.....Most modems are only capable of 300 baud, so unless you have a modem with 1200 baud, set baud rate at a default value of 300. Set the parity to disable or even either should work. Set for 7 bit words. Set for 1 stop bit. This should have the configuration switches set if you are using a Radio Shack RS232 board...note from Sysop: SSSSShudderrr...most owners have had quite frequent problems with the RS232 board, including myself, but I bought one of the newer versions last month and haven't experienced any problems with it yet!!!)

Next: Dial 713-331-2599. When you hear a tone, put the phone in the modem as the instructions indicate. Press enter once or twice, and if everything is o.k., the screen should reply "Are you a TRS-80?". If you see this on your screen, you are on Bullet-80. From this point, the system is menu driven with full instructions and goof proof menu. The program is protected with error routines in case an error should occur...so don't hesitate to try all of the menu functions. If you are in doubt when you sign on and see the long line of letters for commands, press enter and there will be a full page of descriptions of the commands. From here on, the novice user should be able to plow through the program with no problems. The system is designed to be compatible with novice and advanced users. ELECTRONIC SHOPPING. At present, there is no material in this section. This is a great potential for those having equipment, etc. for sale. To place an article in ELECTRONIC SHOPPING, leave a message with Sysop. A small commission fee will be charged upon sale of merchandise to cover handling and upkeep. THE PROGRAM LIBRARY. When Castleberry founded this system, the library was non-copyrighted software donated by Sysop. Programs can be downloaded from the system at no charge, but if users do not support and help the library grow, the contents will become stale and of no interest to those who use the system often. To donate to the Library, leave a message to Sysop indicating what you want to upload and what time. If possible, Sysop will assist you in the uploading until you learn to do it. The uploading feature has been modified to accept any ST80 software (the instructions state that ST80 won't work), but the Sysop has made changes to allow ST80 to function with upload. Simply call for upload with the "P" command and follow the instructions with the above note in mind.

MORE ON RICHARD CASTLEBERRY & BULLET-80 IN OCT. USERS' NEWS!

USERS' NEWS

EDITOR: Brigitte Schaefer

PRODUCTION: John Schaefer

* * * * *

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

JOE STANFIELD

TAPE LIBRARY: ROBERT EDEN

EDUCATION ED: SHARON ELLIOTT

* * * * *

USERS' NEWS is published monthly by 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON. Mail contributions, letters to the Editor, comments, etc. to:

P. O. Box 20000, No. 220
Houston, Texas 77025
or phone (713) 663-7293.

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DO NOT SUBMIT COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL.

80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON meets the first Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in microcomputers is welcome to join our group. Membership dues are \$5.00 per calendar year, which includes your subscription to USERS' NEWS.

REVIEW OF CHROMASETTE MAGAZINE BY SHARON ELLIOTT

The people who put out CLOAD Magazine have come out with a Color Computer version beginning July, 1981. I got the first issue just recently, never having seen CLOAD since it doesn't run on my CTRS-80. First question was how to run the thing; about 1 1/2 pages after Editor Dave talked about VAPTR strings (do those go on oxfords or tennis shoes?), I finally found what to do---take off the white plastic clip, rewind, and CLOAD. So much for beginning beginners!

This first issue has five programs after the "cover", some of which Dave said should be familiar to you Mod I & III Jockies; namely, "HOW FAR", "ACUMEN", "BLOCKADE", "DISSERTATION" and "BLAST". "HOW FAR" works with latitudes and longitudes; "BLOCKADE" can be played by keyboard or joysticks (1 or 2 players); "ACUMEN" is a word tic-tac-toe type game with several levels of difficulty. "DISSERTATION" is a funny sort; to quote Dave, it "spews a stream of grammatically correct garbage to the screen or a printer" (like a politician, you have to shut it up yourself with = BREAK =). Finally, "BLAST", which requires joysticks to play, but I just got a kick out of running it to watch the graphics and hear the sound.

There are problems with the first issue (didn't you expect some?); they're not impossible, but you do need to read the accompanying sheet if you intend to run the programs one right after the other (something about PMODE and PCLEAR). That's o.k. because Dave has space for ads and passes the word on such things as COLOR COMPUTER NEWS, a bi-monthly by REMarkable Software just for the color computer, and the Magic Box, a utility for helping load and convert Mod I & Mod III's onto the CC (\$ 24.99). Personally, I'm looking forward to the next issue!

-T-C-S- NEWSLETTER NO LONGER A "FREEBIE" FOR USERS

In 1978, the TIDEWATER TRS-80 USERS GROUP began distributing its newsletter, -T-C-S-, free to members of other groups across the nation. By 1980, circulation was limited to 6,000 readers with costs running approximately \$ 2,500.00 per issue, which was more than donations could cover. The publishers thought about increasing their advertising rates, but the advertisers did not want to pay the high rates due to increased production costs and increased postage so the publishers of -T-C-S- have appealed to other users groups to spread their word.

In this issue of USERS' NEWS is a sample of the new format of -T-C-S-. If enough of our members are interested, 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON can subscribe to the new -T-C-S-, which will be included in each issue of USERS' NEWS. Cost for 12 issues is \$ 18.00 for the year.

Please read -T-C-S- and let the USERS' NEWS staff know whether we should have -T-C-S- in our newsletter each month.

CHECK IT OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!

A friend of USERS' NEWS traveled to England recently (and the surrounding area) and brought back a rather special gift to the USERS' NEWS staff.

It wasn't the usual paperweight, decorator plate or mug.

It was the August, 1981 issue of PRACTICAL COMPUTING.

This issue was interesting and had several articles that 80-COMPUTER USERS members should look at.

There is a Review on the Model III; an article on the Sharp PC-3201; a review on a program called Incomplete Records (for accountants); a glossary of computer words and phrases (such as Software Rot-hypothetical disease the existence of which has been deduced from the observation that unused programs will stop working after sufficient time has passed, even if nothing has changed. Also known as Bit Decay.); an article on the choice between hardware or software in education; a review of Forth and its applications; etc...

The USERS' NEWS staff will have this issue of PRACTICAL COMPUTING at the September 2nd meeting.

TAPE LIBRARY NEWS BY ROBERT EDEN

Well, the Cassette Library is under new management. I, Robert Eden, have taken the dreaded post of Tape Librarian. Along with the tapes, I received the club tape treasury of \$ 31.49. My new found position caused me to be in charge of the processing of all of the ordered tapes...so....if you ordered "Club Tape 1" and did not receive it yet, please contact me. (I am also the one you need to talk to for purchasing the tape.)

So much for old business...I really want to advise you of the changes I would like to make in the tape library. I am open to any and all suggestions at any time, so feel free to give me your opinion (and please do). First, many of the earlier club members remember when one did not need to buy club cassettes. Well, personally, I don't like the idea of the club cassette, but many of you do....the answer is to keep the cassettes available to those who wish to purchase them, as well as distribute the tapes the old fashioned way...which is to hook up a tape recorder to a "data dubber", which is connected to an "octopus" box, which allows cassettes to be recorded onto 12 recorders. In effect, 12 members' recorders will be copying the tape during the meeting (in the back, running quietly without supervision). The "data dubber" and "octopus" are owned by the club, but all recorders and hook up cables (3.5mm to 3.5mm extension) must be supplied by members wishing to purchase a copy of the club tape. I feel this is the easiest way to do it.

Another change I would like to make is the format of the library. Presently, all club programs are on one tape. I feel it would be better to have all games on one tape, all math/business programs on another and everything else on a third tape. This way each member can purchase the tape with the programs that interests him.

The last change is the biggest one. We are dealing with a tape library. Tape is not the perfect medium....it is easily flawed. Basic (CLOAD) programs are just written to tape....they do not include any error checking. (How many times have you listed a Basic program to find junk?) I have a program which takes a Basic program and saves it as a "system" tape. This would make all the Basic programs formatted for easy verification. The only problem with this is it cannot be loaded directly by disk basic. Disk users would need to load it under Level II and "CSAVE" it to cassette and "CLOAD" it under disk basic. Should this be done, I realize that it would be a hassle; therefore, if the tape library format is changed, I plan to provide a copy of all disk basic programs to the Disk Library.

I feel that some, if not all of these changes would be beneficial to the library, but all members may not feel that way. So, I invite all club members to write or give me a call and voice your opinion (good or bad).

ROBERT EDEN

14369 Misty Meadow, Hou.
Texas 77079

(713) 497-0895

M-F: 7 - 10:30 p.m.

S & S: noon - 10:30 p.m.

COLOR COMPUTER NEWS

Anyone owning a Color Computer is asked to contact SHARON ELLIOTT at 453-4575 evenings before 10:00 p.m.

* * *

In other news about the Color Computer, Sharon reports that in case you hook up your CC to a printer, be warned that the Epson MX-80 needs a specially made cable....that the Epson MX-70 is not compatible (according to Epson) and that the Radio Shack Line Printer VII does not print a run easily (which teachers need to generate worksheets.)

Sharon also reports that the CC does not get color on any television set, despite what the box said. There are some conditions like a 1-gun or 3-gun color system and a properly tuned tuner.

Sharon notes that the CC owner should not talk to a TV repairman about tuning a color TV for the CC unless the person was having a good day before he started the conversation.

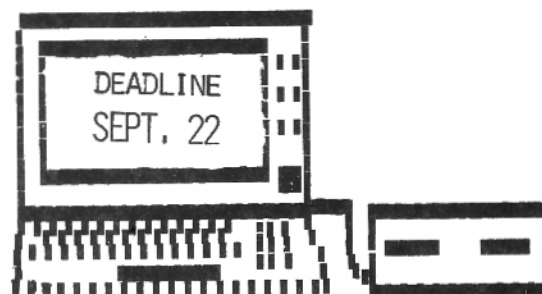
* * *

DISK MENU PROGRAM

This program peeks into screen memory after doing a directory read of the disk. The contents of screen memory are converted to a string. This string then can be manipulated just like any other string. There are two loops to find the position to start looking. The first loop x increments the lines and y loop looks across the line to each start position. This program should work for any disk operating system which will allow commands from basic and that has a similar style of directory format. I have tried it with VTOS 4.0.2 and NEWDOS80. These two systems print the directory differently so you have to peek on a different line. The figures for the x loop for NEWDOS80 are to start at 15488. For VTOS change it to 15552 which is one line lower.

The operation is simple. Run the program and use the letter and number keys since inkey\$ is used and <enter> isn't. Just key the disk drive you desire to look at and the program sets the directory and converts each program name to a string and runs the program when you hit the designated letter. If you desire another drive directory hit a number key and select the drive desired.

There is a similar program to this one in the club library. I tried it out and found that it wouldn't work with VTOS, so I started trying to modify it. After a lot of work and still getting nowhere, I decided to try to write part of it so that I could try to understand how to modify it so that it would work for me. After doing a little research on screen memory I wrote this program and have not gotten around to my modifications since this program accomplishes exactly the same thing and I understand mine.



10 " *****

MENU PROGRAM
by Clarence Perry
466-8322

```
20 CLS:CMD"GETDATE":'UTOS UTILITY TO REQUEST DATE IF NOT SET
30 CLEAR 500:DIM NA$(30):DEFINT I-M,X-Z
40 CLS:PRINTCHR$(23);@276,"WHICH DRIVE":PRINT@340,"    0 - 3":GOSU
    B240:M=VAL(A$):CLS:M=M+1:IF M>4 THEN GOTO 40:' M CAN'T BE 0

50 ON M GOSUB60,70,80,90:GOTO100
60 CMD"DIR :0":RETURN
70 CMD"DIR :1":RETURN
80 CMD"DIR :2":RETURN
90 CMD"DIR :3":RETURN
100 GOSUB180
110 I=I-1:CLS:PRINT@15,CHR$(23):"DRIVE ";M-1;" MENU":PRINT:FOR J=
    0 TO I STEP 2:PRINT CHR$(J+65);" ";NA$(J),CHR$(J+1+65);" ";N
    A$(J+1)
120 IF LEFT$(NA$(J+2),1)="/" THEN GOTO 140
130 NEXT J
140 PRINT:PRINT"        MAKE CHOICE"
150 GOSUB240:A=ASC(A$)-65:IF A<0 THEN GOTO 40 ELSE:B$=NA$(A):CLS:
    PRINT@460,CHR$(23):"LOADING ";B$:IF RIGHT$(B$,4)="/CMD" THEN
    GOTO 170
160 RUNB$
170 CMD B$
180 I=0:FOR X=15552 TO 16064 STEP 64:FOR Y=X TO X+40 STEP 20:L=Y:
    GOSUB 220:'-----SET LOOPS TO FIND STARTING POINT FOR PEE
    K
190 IF N$="" THEN GOTO 210
200 NA$(I)=N$:I=I+1:NEXT Y:NEXT X
210 RETURN
220 N$="":FOR Z=0 TO 12:P1=PEEK(L+Z):IF P1=32 THEN GOTO 230 ELSE:
    P$=CHR$(P1):N$=N$+P$: NEXT Z:' P1 CHECKS TO SEE IF BLANK I
    N NEXT CHARACTER - ASC 32
230 RETURN
240 A$=INKEY$:IF A$=""THEN 240
250 RETURN
```

THE DATA BASE MANAGER NOBODY KNOWS
(But nearly everyone has)
by Theo. Bitbyter

Electric Pencil and Scripsit word processors are so widely used that you very likely have one or both. Do you realize that you have one of the best, fastest, most convenient Data Base Managers around?

No need to bang your head against the wall like that. I didn't know it either until I'd been using Electric Pencil for two years. But any good word processor can search for a key word or string of characters. So you have fast, almost instant "random access" search for key words.

Suppose that you are keeping a Pencil or Scripsit file of magazine articles of interest. And that two entries in it look like this:

```
-----
*STOCKS *SECURITIES *ANALYSIS
Schildt, Herbert
  *WALL STREET WALLOP
*Personal Computing May '78 p.49 ff.
  "...with personal computers it's possible to compete with, even beat
the corporate analysts".
  Averages.....) --- Formulas for each,
  Standard Deviation.....) & program
  Coefficient of Correlation...) & explanation
  Regression line.....) & guide to use of each.
  File processed parameters...)
  Sort raw data.....)
  Graph.....)
Looks very good!
```

```
*OPTIONS *ANALYSIS *SECURITIES
*Christianson, Edward
  *MICROCOMPUTER STOCK OPTIONS
*Interface Age Feb. '77 p.29 ff.
  Excellent article on principles of buying, selling, writing
call options. Explains -- lucidly -- buying and writing strategies.
Good program doc.
```

The words and phrases preceeded by an asterisk are the key words that you hope will stick in your mind as the ones to tell Pencil or Scripsit to hunt for. If you're using Electric Pencil, and want to find the article about how to choose the best call options, you could ask Pencil to find it by entering:

```
CONTROL V -- clears the video
*OPTION -- press ENTER
For Scripsit, you would press
BREAK, then in the Command Line enter:
F>*OPTION
```

One thing-- the cursor had better be at the start of your file. Pencil & Scripsit both do their hunt from the cursor onwards.

If you want to look up all the articles about the stock market, instead of *OPTIONS you would enter *SECURITIES or just *SEC. Your

Data-Base Manager would show you the first abstract keyed to *SECURITIES. To see the next one, simply do a CONTROL C for Pencil, or BREAK F for Scripsit.

I'M putting an * before each Key Word, so that my DBM/Word Processor won't show me every ordinary word "option" in the 20,000 byte data-base!

Similar non-ordinary uses for these Word Processors are waiting for you to originate them. For instance, if your mailing list is a sequential file it is saved in ASCII, and so Pencil or Scripsit will load it. Pencil demands a "/PCL" in the filespec, of course --an "extension" to the file name, as the computer types call it.. (Or if you've zapped your Pencil six ways to Sunday like mine -- it comes up from Dos into the SubCommand mode already in lower case with a super-sonic cursor and will display the complete disk directory, not just Pencil files, and load any file with a "/x" extension, etc. etc.)

Then with your mailing list in Pencil it is very easy to make corrections, or to edit down to just certain ZIP codes, or just to left-handed red-heads rated "10"....

In a slightly clumsy way you can use your mailing list to "personalize" your form letter. Load the mailing list into Pencil, then your form letter. Then place your cursor at the start of the last name-and-address on the list, and do a CONTROL-P. It will print the name and address as part of the letter. Then delete that name-and-address and let the one above take its place. With the cursor at the name, print it. Not so swift for a 1000-name mailing list, but for a small club ...?

(Editor's note: Theo. Bitbyter is an alias for _ _ _ _ _)



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UN(SRC)4/81

BOOK REVIEW BY RUSSELL POPP

Book: Scientific Analysis for (A.O.S.) Programmable Calculators by H.R. MECK

The programmable calculator is ideally suited for solving problems requiring iteration, and H.R. MECK has presented solid programs to deal with those problems an engineering student would face.

All of the programs presented are based on the operation of the Texas Instruments type calculator, and some effort has been spent in presenting programming methods for these models rather than simply listing programs.

While this book does try to teach you how to produce a working program from a set of equations, it makes almost no effort to make the mathematics understandable. You are expected to have a firm grasp on all functions dealt with.

The main purpose of this book is not to present mathematics theory, but rather to give methods of turning theory into a presentable "machine form" so that, given the proper starting values, an answer can be found to an equation "at the press of a button".

For teaching the owner of a programmable calculator, this is a very good book, but the student must be prepared to go to another source entirely for learning mathematics.

EDUCATIONAL NEWS AND PROGRAMS EDITOR IS CHOSEN

Persons having any educational programs should contact SHARON ELLIOTT at 453-4575 evenings before 10:00 p.m. Sharon reports that evaluations of programs in the educational section of the tape library are needed, as well as programs used for educational purposes.

Anyone having something to add to the Tape Library should contact the new Tape Librarian, ROBERT EDEN so that the program can be copied for the tape library. Sharon notes that those having educational programs that are copyrighted should fill out an evaluation form so others can gauge whether that program is worth buying.

Sharon also reports that she and a friend who heads the Apple Club (HAAUG) Education Sub-Group, are pushing the use of micromputers in schools and need help. Any programs you have written for kids (even games) are wanted.

MISC.

Two users sub-groups have met recently. They are the Assembly Language Sub-Group and the Stock Market Sub-Group. No report from either group chairman was received by USERS' NEWS by the Sept. issue deadline.

PLANNING TO ROB A BANK? IT PAYS TO USE A COMPUTER!!

According to FBI reports, persons planning to rob a bank get more if they use a computer.

In a stickup, the average bank robber gets a mere \$ 3,200.00, compared to the bank embezzler who averages \$ 23,500.00 (without using a computer), but when a computer is used, the take increases by more than 14 times to \$ 430,000.00

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE---Level II ROM Kit..Call Larry Shaefer or Judy Williams.....
660-9198 or 777-7907.

* * *

FOR SALE---Model I, 48k with new keyboard, plus one 80-track drive and one 35-track drive. Includes NEWDOS 80, VISICAL, SCRIPSIT, and more. Like new, running bug-free...\$ 2,400.00.....
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452-4339.

* * *

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496-9429

By Leo Keith

"COMMBAT" is a new two player release from Adventure International. "COMMBAT" is a graphics oriented, "real time" game which requires 2 TRS-80's with 300 baud full duplex modems. "COMMBAT" has its own communications package programmed into the game. In the game you will pit your tactical skill and strategical prowess against your opponent.

The "COMMBAT" field is a 4096 (64 X 64) square kilometer grid divided into 8 sectors. After establishing a "commlink", you select your base, place your decoys, then set out to find your opponents base. You have 8 tanks which can carry up to 8000 kilos of cargo (i.e. weapons). The 8 tanks are remote controlled and can be controlled as a single unit or as a group of up to 8 tanks.

Each time you move, your screen and your opponents screen is updated by the "commlink". However, you cannot see where your opponent is until such time that you move into his area. your tank is able to "see" and report on a 5 by 5 kilometer area. In the game, there is no "waiting for your turn" as each player moves independently of the other. It is always "your turn", but while you move, so does your opponent.

When you find your opponents base, decoy, or tank, the fireworks really begin and the excitement rises. You try to move in for the kill, but your opponent has other thoughts in mind. Watchout or before you know it, you will be missing one tank. With one tank destroyed, you move in with another, but what's instore for you may be a mine field. Oh well, there goes another tank. You bring in a third tank and this time you "see" a 3 by 3 area of "E"'s. Ah heh, the enemy base has been found (or is it a decoy?). you move in, lob a few rockets his way and don't get any return fire, but what was that? His tank appeared and "BOOM", you have another disabled tank. And so the game goes...until one players base is destroyed.

The Galactic Law dictates that this is a "Single Combat to the Death", so there are only three possible outcomes: (1) Defeat the enemy; (2) Be defeated; or (3) One combatant resigns. "COMMBAT" is really an exciting game and gives you the "Thrill of Victory", or the "Agony of Defeat". So...arm yourself with your TRS-80 (Model I or III) and a modem and prepare to enjoy a virtual military free-for-all, with you in control.

One final note, I don't suggest you play "COMMBAT" if you have the Call Waiting feature on your phone line, as it is very frustrating to get interference in the middle of a game. The click for Call Waiting will break the "commlink" and you will be unable to continue the game. COMPUTEX in Webster has "COMMBAT" in stock, or you can order the game from Adventure International.

TCS

P.O. BOX 10281
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23513

On irregular rainy, windy and other foul-weather weekends for the past three years, -T-C-S- has been published and mailed FREE, as a club project of the TIDEWATER TRS-80 USERS GROUP, to a circulation that grew to over 6,000 readers. We were able to do this with the help of donations and advertising from over two dozen companies, many on a repeat basis, with such well recognized names as SCOTT ADAMS, LNW RESEARCH, MICRO MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, THE MICROPERIPHERAL CORP, THE ALTERNATE SOURCE, MARK GORDON COMPUTERS, etc. We have been mentioned in a dozen computer magazines such as 80-MICROCOMPUTING, 80-US JOURNAL, DR. DOBB'S JOURNAL, KILOBAUD, etc. And readers have been personally referred to us by the likes of DENNIS KITSZ, CHARLEY BUTLER and other famous names who read -T-C-S-.

But inflation, especially in postal rates, has made it impossible to continue publishing with affordable ad rates without turning to bulk mail and folded pages (less envelopes) and that has been soundly rejected by advertisers. So what you are reading is the first of what we hope will be our new form of existence -- a page in your own club newsletter. In this way we can reach more of you more often (monthly, if it catches on) and we won't be dependent on or influenced by advertisers. If you support this idea, be sure to tell your club officers and newsletter editor. That's the only way we can continue.

NEWS

If your kids (or yourself) enjoyed the first SUPERMAN comic book put out jointly by Radio Shack and DC Comics, there is another one now about how Superman relies on the Color Computer and the Pocket Computer. Pick up a copy at your local Radio Shack store.

One of the more professional software houses is PERSONAL SOFTWARE, INC. who brought us MICRO-CHESS and VISI-CALC through Radio Shack. Look for them to release four new programs of this quality in the near future. One is VISI-PLOT which is a high resolution plotting and graphics package which can be used independently or in conjunction with VISI-TREND, a statistics and analysis package. VISI-DEX is a personal information system for such things as lists, short reports, appointments, etc. And VISI-TERM is a sophisticated terminal program for communications use between micro and mini computers. Priced from \$150 to \$260, versions of these programs will be available for the HP-85, Pet, Apple and CBM as well as all TRS-80's.

The 80 SOFTWARE DIRECTORY formerly published by COMPUTERMAT has been taken over by PERSONAL MICRO COMPUTERS, INC. of 475 ELLIS ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043. If you have software to sell, send listings to Mr. Ron Troxel at PMC.

The Model I TRS-80 lives on -- overseas, at least! TOKYO ELECTRIC COMPANY, a TOSHIBA company which has supplied products to Tandy in the past, has been licensed to manufacture all models of the TRS-80 for sale in Japan starting with the Model I. In that way, Tandy hopes to increase it's share of the Japanese market by a factor of four.

Meanwhile, TANDY reported \$408,345,000 in sales during the third quarter, up 25%, and a 56% increase in earnings. For the first nine months that makes income \$115,246,000, or \$2.25 per share, which is 41% over last year and equal to the income for their entire last fiscal year.

Noted author Adam Osborne intends to take a healthy chunk of that business away from Tandy (who are lousy businessmen in his opinion) starting with his OSBORNE I self-contained computer. It features as standard equipment twin disk drives, 64K RAM, 280 CPU, both RS-232 and IEEE-488 interfaces, and software worth over half the \$1,795 price tag. The keyboard is in the lid which folds up so that the entire unit will fit under an airline seat. Options include a 3-5 hour battery pack, modem, and a larger monitor.

IBM is also coming out with a personal computer, one version of which is said to be in the \$1,000 range. XEROX and HEWLETT-PACKARD are other big names who will announce personal computers in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range in the next few weeks. By XMAS you'll see some of them in Sears stores.

It is rumored that RADIO SHACK has both a Model IV and a Model V in the works, one of which may be introduced as soon as August. This time they are supposedly going ahead with the 80-column display format that was planned at one time for the Model III but finally rejected due to software incompatibility with the Model I. No other details are yet available.

ZILOG will produce a new microprocessor chip next year called the Z800. It will maintain software compatibility with the Z80 since it will have all the same instructions plus two new ones -- 16-bit multiply and 16-bit divide -- but will run 3-5 times faster and address up to 4 M-bytes in it's 16-bit interface mode. We expect RADIO SHACK will include the new chip in a future design because of it's compatibility with software for their existing computers.

POLAROID has a series of antireflection filters for video display terminals which sell for about \$100 each. The unique design utilizes right-hand circular polarization which has a hardly noticeable effect on the unpolarized light emanating from the screen. However, light from outside is right-hand circularly polarized as it passes through the filter on the way in and, since reflections are naturally of opposite polarity, it can't pass through the filter a second time. A spokesman for the company said they were not presently making a version for the TRS-80 but would if there were enough demand. Phone them at 617/769-6800 or write them in Norwood, MA 02062 if you would like to see this product available.

The New York State Association for Educational Data Systems will hold it's annual conference Oct 18-20 in Syracuse, NY for the benefit of anyone interested in computers and education. This year's theme is "software", keynote speaker is Marge Kosel from MECC and banquet speaker is futurist Dr. Earl Joseph from Sperry Rand. Info from DON ROSS, ARDSLEY HIGH SCHOOL, ARDSLEY, NY 10502.

The 64-K RAM's are coming! I know, I know. That's what we said a couple of years ago, right? Well, the technology had it's pitfalls such as the alpha radiation problem but that's all licked now. And Motorola is the second company to offer evaluation kits of their MCM 6665 for 10/\$150. That's only \$15 apiece. But it will go even lower. When our TRS-80 was new in 1977, the 16K RAM was \$52 apiece! Anyhow, LNW-80 owners should be able to incorporate the new devices with a slight modification to replace all four sets of 16-K chips needed for high resolution graphics and eliminate the two power supplies they require (-5V and +12V).

NEW PRODUCTS

PAGEIT is a self-prompting, menu-driven BASIC program that we've tried out (and like) which makes beautiful listings of programs (or any ASCII file) with the filename, date and page number at the top of each page. It supports any one of 12 standard Radio Shack printers selected by the operator or a 13th "universal" printer. It automatically prints the proper number of lines per page depending on the type and size paper specified. An extra line is inserted ahead of all REM lines to make them stand out and all text is indented so that only line numbers appear in the left columns. Since it is in BASIC it can be modified, if desired. Supplied on diskette for 32K Model I or III systems for \$25 from FLB ENTERPRISES, 4213 ROUTE 108, OLNEY, MD 20832.

Over a dozen games and utilities (monitors, disassemblers and an editor/assembler) for the TRS-80 COLOR COMPUTER are described in a 12-page catalog from SPECTRAL ASSOCIATES, 141 HARVARD AVE, TACOMA, WA 98466.

In business and education, group presentations that make use of a microcomputer are usually limited to a small audience because of small display size. ELECTROHOME ELECTRONICS has come out with a unit about the size of a slide projector which accepts composite video, such as that available from TRS-80's, and projects a high resolution image of the display onto a 5-foot screen. It would be dandy for club meetings, too, if you could afford the \$4,500 cost. Their address is 809 WELLINGTON STREET NORTH, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA N2G 4J6 519/744-7111.

Programs available for the TRS-80 POCKET COMPUTER include Appointment Calendar (\$7.95), Timer/Clock (\$2.95) and Electronic Checkbook (\$3.95) as well as Blackjack, Blackjack Helper and a Go Fishing Game (\$5.95 each) from BLANTON SOFTWARE SERVICE, 4522 BRIAR FORREST, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78217 512/657-0766. These are listings; add \$1.50 if cassette tape is desired. Custom programs developed on request.

QUICKKEYS are clear pressure sensitive labels of commonly used words in BASIC, DISK BASIC, word processing, and communications plus a set of numbers and letters that can be cut out and mounted to the front of key caps on your keyboard to identify special functions. The various words are printed in one of three colors and they look very neat when carefully applied. We were disappointed that common words were not duplicated. For instance, in Electric Pencil the "D" deletes a character and the "Y" deletes a line but there was only one word "delete" in the set. Still, we found them very useful when teaching someone else to use our programs. They are \$9.95 per set from PAIRR PRODUCTS, PO BOX 817, MONTROSE, CA 91020.

The DC-80 is a DC/DC converter that operates from an input voltage of 9-16 VDC and replaces the power supply to operate your computer or expansion interface (presumably you need two to operate both) directly from a storage battery. With it you can make your own uninterruptable power supply or use your computer at outdoor sporting events. It is \$49 for the Model I and future versions are planned for disk drives, video display and Model III. DIGITAL INNOVATIONS, 37 STONYBROOK DR, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA N2M 4L6.

THE ALTERNATE SOURCE: VOLUME I is a bound, soft-cover "book" containing the first six issues of their magazine. We've mentioned their contents often in our past issues and this is your chance to catch up. There is a wealth of knowledge there for \$14.95 + 2.00 S&H from TAS, 1806 Ada St, Lansing, MI 48910.

THE WESTLAKE GUIDE lists hundreds of computer, electronics, video, telecommunications and related business publications for sale. For TRS-80 owners, sample issues of 8 national newsletters and magazines (2 on cassette) are available for \$14 which can be credited toward subscriptions within 10 months. WESTLAKE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE, 104 WESTLAKE PLAZA, 4200 SOUTH LOUISE AVE, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106.

HINTS

When using Model I Electric Pencil and the computer hangs up for some reason (such as trying to save a file without a disk in the drive), press RESET and insert a disk with MON4, RSM2, TBUG or some other monitor that will load into high memory. Don't do a DIR! Run the monitor and jump to location 6106. That will put you back in Pencil so you can print out the data in memory. Then reboot and enter Pencil normally because no further disk operations can take place.

The new ROM's (that display L2 BASIC instead of LEVEL II BASIC) have a built-in key debounce routine which causes too much delay when used with NEWDOS which has its own debounce routine. Disable the one in NEWDOS by holding down the SHIFT and UP ARROW keys while booting up with the reset button. To disable it permanently, use Superzap to change track 1, sector 5, rel byte F1 from the sequence 09 28 06 to 09 18 06.

Model III disk drives are double density with 18 sectors per track just as Model I's with dual density adapters. The difference is Model III TRSDOS numbers the sectors 1-18 instead of 0-17. Speaking of double density, if you've bought a \$29.95 Percom data separator in the last few months, check to see if it has five small jumpers where it looks like an IC should go, below the 1771 controller chip. If so, it is the same board used by their original Doubler and you can make it into one by adding the extra parts. A kit of the extra parts including the 1791 double density controller chip and complete illustrated installation instructions is available for \$69.95 plus \$2 postage and handling from TG ELECTRONICS, PO BOX 64068, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464 804/467-2313. Club discounts of 10% on group purchases of 5 or more kits.

The NOVA series of game programs don't run properly on some Model I computers because of differences in ROM's. To fix this, be sure program loads between 8000 and A130 in hex. Then with a monitor, alter the sequence DB 13 2F to 00 00 found at locations 929B, 97DE, and 980D.

The TRS-80 modifications to MPI 52 and 92 drives are done differently by some distributors than others and won't work with LNW expansion boards. The solution is to cut away the trace to pin 34 on the LNW board if this is a problem.

THE BOOK Volume II contains a nice lower case printer driver in Appendix B that provides many features useful for MX-80 and BASE II printers.

A zap to NEWDOS/80 that allows JKL function to be stopped with BREAK key: With Superzap, DFS SYS1/SYS, track 10, sector 04, starting with rel byte 8A: 01 21 C9 51 F5 C5 E5 21 7F 38 7E FE 04 28 09 E1 C1 F1 CB 74 23 C3 CD 43 3E 0D CD 3B 00 E1 C1 F1 C3 DA 43 01 05 CA 43 C3 C9 51 02 02 00 4E.

CAUTION - do not use Superzap to change directory area of LDOS. The pack ID is different and it will be overwritten with trash.

The SHIFT, DOWN ARROW and "A" keys simultaneously pressed cause the same action as the BREAK key. If you find a neat application for that, let us know.

Level III users can redefine any key to act as a "break" key with the command: LSET X = CHR\$(1) where X is any key A through Z.

Many of you wrote to tell us we were wrong about the hint that the INSTR function is slightly different between NEWDOS/80 and other DOS's. We were informed by the contributor of the hint, noted author Roxton Baker, that it was wrong because it was incomplete. What we meant to say was that NEWDOS/80 INSTR returns a "0" and all other DOS's return a "1" if the string you are searching for has zero length, in other words, a "null". That could happen with an INPUT statement, for example. To demonstrate, try this statement with different DOS's and NEWDOS/80 and notice what happens when ONLY the ENTER key is pressed:

```
10 I$="" : INPUT I$ : PRINT INSTR("ABC",I$) : GOTO 10
```